

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN DECEMBER 2004

Producers mined 1.48 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum in December 2004 (table 1). Output was slightly more than that of November 2004, and 14% more than that of December 2003. Synthetic gypsum production was 770,000 metric tons (t) in December 2004 (table 1), which was 9% more than that of November 2004, and 6% more than that of December 2003. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the largest domestic consumer of gypsum. During January through November 2004, synthetic gypsum accounted for 7.89 million metric tons (Mt), or about 24%, of the 32.3 Mt supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 673,000 t (table 2), 29% more than that of November 2004, and 47% more than that of December 2003.

Output of calcined gypsum for December (table 1) was 1.84 Mt, slightly more than that of November 2004, and slightly more than that of December 2003. Sales of board products were about 2.8 billion square feet (263 million square meters),

slightly more than that of November 2004, and 5% more than that of December 2003.

U.S. Government import and export data for December 2004 were not available at the time of publication. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in November 2004 were 920,000 t (table 3), 4% less than that of October 2004, and 20% more than that of November 2003. Gypsum wallboard imports, principally from Canada, for November 2004 were 47,000 t, equivalent to 56 million square feet (5.2 million square meters). These imports were 11% less than that of October 2004 and 4% more than that of November 2003. Wallboard exports to 30 countries and territories in November 2004 were 7,400 t, equivalent to 9.8 million square feet (824,000 square meters). These exports were 10% less than those of October 2004 and 85% more than those of November 2003.

All percentages in this report were computed based on unrounded data.

TABLE 1
GYPSUM SUPPLY^{1, 2}

(Metric tons)

	2004			2003
	December	November	January-December	January-December
Crude:				
Mined ⁴	1,480,000	1,460,000	16,900,000	16,300,000
Imported ⁵	NA	920,000	NA	8,290,000
Exported ⁵	NA	12,900	NA	192,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁶	770,000	708,000	8,660,000	8,260,000
Total supply	NA	3,070,000	NA	32,700,000
Calcined:				
Produced	1,840,000	1,820,000	21,500,000	20,500,000
Imported ⁷	NA	471	NA	13,600
Exported ⁷	NA	105,000	NA	185,000
Total supply	NA	1,720,000	NA	20,300,000

NA Not available.

¹Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes revisions to previous months' data.

⁴Some data were estimated from semiannual reports.

⁵Import and export data are for "Gypsum; anhydrite," Harmonized Tariff Schedule 2520.10.0000.

⁶Reported production only.

⁷Import and export data are for "Plaster," Harmonized Tariff Schedule 2520.20.0000.

TABLE 2
GYPSUM SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS, BY USE^{1, 2}

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2004			2003
	December	November	January-December ³	January-December
Uncalcined: ⁴				
Portland cement	349,000	341,000	4,230,000	3,950,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	324,000	181,000	2,110,000	2,120,000
Total	673,000	522,000	6,330,000	6,080,000
Calcined:				
Board products ⁵	2,360,000	2,350,000	28,500,000	26,900,000
Plaster	13,100	12,300	163,000	232,000
Total	2,370,000	2,360,000	28,700,000	27,100,000
Board products: (Thousand square feet) ⁶				
Regular board	1,750,000	1,760,000	21,000,000	19,300,000
Type X board	823,000	797,000	10,100,000	9,460,000
Other	258,000	260,000	3,140,000	2,950,000
Total supply	2,830,000	2,810,000	34,200,000	31,700,000

¹Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes revisions to previous months' data.

⁴Does not include synthetic gypsum from electric power plants.

⁵Includes weight of paper and other materials.

⁶One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

TABLE 3
CRUDE GYPSUM IMPORTED FOR CONSUMPTION¹

(Metric tons)

Country of origin	2004			2003
	November	October	January-November	January-November
Argentina	--	--	--	18
Austria	--	--	8	14
Canada	593,000	607,000	6,200,000	5,200,000
China	--	--	41,300	--
Costa Rica	--	--	53	--
Dominican Republic	6,500	18,400	124,000	67,900
France	15	--	15	--
Germany	1,800	--	1,800	--
Guatemala	--	--	--	22
Italy	1	1	26,900	11
Jamaica	--	--	19,200	16
Japan	--	--	3	--
Mexico	216,000	244,000	2,040,000	1,610,000
Netherlands	3	3	3	--
Peru	9	9	11	--
Spain	102,000	84,900	728,000	593,000
Sweden	--	--	--	2
United Kingdom	--	--	21	97
Total	920,000	954,000	9,180,000	7,470,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
CRUDE GYPSUM IN THE UNITED STATES^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Consumption ³	Production ⁴	Imports ⁵	Exports ⁵
2003:				
October	2,210	1,510	713	13
November	2,070	1,310	766	13
December	2,120	1,300	830	17
January-December	24,400	16,300	8,300	167
2004:				
January	2,100	1,350	761	13
February	1,810	1,260	559	12
March	2,180	1,390	806	14
April	2,140	1,400	751	9
May	2,230	1,340	905	11
June	2,200	1,280	936	14
July	2,570	1,580	1,010	14
August	2,240	1,520	735	9
September	2,220	1,390	835	12
October	2,400	1,460	954	14
November	2,360	1,460	920	13
December	NA	1,480	NA	NA

NA Not available.

¹Excludes synthetic gypsum.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

³Consumption calculated by adding the production and imports shown in this table and subtracting the exports shown in this table. Monthly inventory changes are not included.

⁴Production data are from the semiannual gypsum canvasses of the non-wallboard producers, annual canvass of all producers, and from monthly data furnished by the Gypsum Association from the wallboard producers.

⁵Data from U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
SALES OF GYPSUM BOARD PRODUCTS, BY SALES REGIONS^{1,2}

(Thousand square feet)³

	New England	Middle Atlantic	E. North Central	W. North Central	South Atlantic	E. South Central	W. South Central	Mountain	Pacific	Exports	Total
2004:											
December:											
Lath	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Veneer base	24,500	2,810	8,240	836	8,620	48	75	422	1,740	--	47,300
Sheathing	2,000	5,250	5,420	6,660	16,400	2,790	10,900	5,560	7,700	2,540	65,200
Regular gypsum board	43,300	151,000	204,000	114,000	537,000	133,000	184,000	174,000	178,000	32,700	1,750,000
Type X gypsum board	26,300	82,700	118,000	63,700	146,000	31,900	82,600	104,000	158,000	9,610	823,000
Predecorated board	250	658	854	396	1,300	466	757	436	691	46	5,860
5/16 Mobile home board	--	246	3,160	--	9,000	8,170	4,720	237	735	--	26,300
Water/moisture resistant board	5,140	19,300	13,800	6,090	27,600	4,990	9,700	9,270	13,400	3,930	113,000
Total	102,000	262,000	353,000	192,000	746,000	181,000	292,000	294,000	361,000	48,800	2,830,000
January- December:											
Lath	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Veneer base	286,000	31,700	97,800	9,450	105,000	305	655	3,620	18,500	502	554,000
Sheathing	18,400	52,200	60,100	71,400	173,000	31,600	131,000	70,600	101,000	28,700	738,000
Regular gypsum board	507,000	1,780,000	2,670,000	1,370,000	5,940,000	1,490,000	2,480,000	2,020,000	2,360,000	385,000	21,000,000
Type X gypsum board	315,000	1,010,000	1,480,000	787,000	1,650,000	352,000	1,040,000	1,220,000	2,170,000	91,700	10,100,000
Predecorated board	3,730	7,730	11,000	5,850	15,800	4,670	9,850	4,500	7,140	728	71,000
5/16 Mobile home board	--	10,600	58,700	1	117,000	141,000	77,700	6,760	10,500	226	423,000
Water/moisture resistant board	62,000	234,000	176,000	72,500	296,000	55,100	127,000	108,000	180,000	42,700	1,350,000
Total	1,190,000	3,130,000	4,550,000	2,320,000	8,300,000	2,070,000	3,860,000	3,430,000	4,850,000	549,000	34,200,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Sales region equivalent to U.S. Census Bureau Geographic Division as follows: New England (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT); Middle Atlantic (NJ, NY, PA); East North Central (IL, IN, MI, OH, WI); West North Central (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD); South Atlantic (DC, DE, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV); East South Central (AL, KY, MS, TN); West South Central (AR, LA, OK, TX); Mountain (AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT, WY); Pacific (AK, CA, HI, OR, WA).

³One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

Source: Gypsum Association.